

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



News Flash –

REVISED product from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

[“Medicare Information for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Anesthesiologist Assistants, and Physician Assistants,”](#) Booklet, ICN 901623, Downloadable

MLN Matters® Number: MM7701

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7701

Related CR Release Date: January 13, 2012

Effective Date: January 1, 2011

Related CR Transmittal #: R76GI and R153BP

Implementation Date: February 13, 2012

Allowing Physician Assistants to Perform Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Level of Care Certifications and Recertifications

Provider Types Affected

SNFs and swing-bed hospitals that bill Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) or A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for providing Part A SNF services to Medicare beneficiaries are affected.

What Providers Need to Know

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 7701, which implements Section 3108 of the Affordable Care Act. This section adds physician assistants to the list of practitioners who can perform SNF level of care certifications and recertifications. Performing this function is a requirement for Medicare coverage of SNF services under Part A.

CR7701 directs Medicare contractors to recognize that, **effective with services furnished on or after January 1, 2011**, physician assistants can perform the required initial certification and periodic recertifications of a beneficiary's need for a SNF level of care.

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Note: Contractors will reopen and reprocess any claims brought to their attention for Part A SNF services that were mistakenly denied (prior to this update) based on having a physician assistant complete the required SNF level of care certification or recertification. However, contractors will not search claims history to identify these claims.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR7701, was issued to your FI or A/B MAC regarding this change via two transmittals. The first modifies the “Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement” manual and it may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/transmittals/downloads/R76GI.pdf> on the CMS website. The second updates the “Medicare Benefit Policy” manual, which is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R153BP.pdf> on the same site.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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